



Principles of Development and Reconstruction Assistance

These principles guide U.S. development and reconstruction assistance. They are fundamental to the success of assistance as an instrument of U.S. foreign policy and national security. The principles are not a checklist, but a summary of the characteristics of successful assistance to achieve development objectives including economic growth, democracy and governance, and social transition.

Ownership

Build on the leadership, participation and commitment of a country and its people.

Capacity-Building

Strengthen local institutions, transfer technical skills and promote appropriate policies.

Sustainability

Design programs to ensure their impact endures.

Selectivity

Allocate resources based on need, local commitment and foreign policy interests.

Assessment

Conduct careful research, adapt best practices, and design for local conditions.

Results

Focus resources to achieve clearly defined, measurable and strategically-focused objectives.

Partnership

Collaborate closely with governments, communities, donors, NGOs, the private sector, international organizations, and universities.

Flexibility

Adjust to changing conditions, take advantage of opportunities, and maximize efficiency.

Accountability

Design accountability and transparency into systems and build effective checks and balances to guard against corruption.